

Activity #7: Asking Genuine Questions

Section 4: Engaging Young Scientists

You are studying butterflies in your PK classroom. You are interested in providing many science experiences and activities for the children and want to make sure you are guiding them through the process by asking genuine questions. Look at the information given to your group below. Write two or three genuine questions you might ask the children. Keep in mind these questions should be open-ended, require reflection before responding, and have more than one possible answer.

Group 1:

You are planning to read *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* to your class to introduce the life cycle of the butterfly. What questions might you ask before, during, and after the story to encourage children to reflect on the life cycle of the butterfly?

Group 2:

You have a butterfly habitat where larvae will change into butterflies as the children watch over several weeks. One day, two children are looking at the habitat and talking about what the larvae eat. What questions might you ask as the children are discussing this?

Group 3:

You have placed several interesting pictures of butterflies in the science center. A child is looking at the pictures. What questions might you ask the child to guide her toward noticing the differences and similarities in the butterflies?

Group 4:

Your class has been observing the life cycle of the butterfly by watching the changes from larvae to butterfly in a butterfly habitat. The butterflies have all emerged and are ready to be released. What questions might you ask the children before you release the butterflies?